Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 160005 ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 L-03 H-02 SP-02 IGA-02 CIAE-00 /036 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OFP/FFD:STJOHNSON/SOT APPROVED BY EB/OFP/FFD:RMOGDEN ARA/AND - DTOYRYLA ARA/ECP - LPETERS USDA/OGSM - CDELAPLANE AFP/FRD - GFRAZIER

-----120613 092304Z /64

R 090319Z JUL 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, BL

SUBJECT: BOLIVIA'S ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE TITLE I PL $480\,$ AID

REF : LA PAZ 5196

- 1. CONGRESS IS IN THE PROCESS OF REVISING PUBLIC LAW 480.
 WE ARE NOT AWARE, HOWEVER, OF ANY CHANGES WHICH WOULD AFFECT BOLIVISA'S ELIGIBILITY. BOLIVIA, LIKE ALMOST ALL OTHER
 LESS DEVELOPED NATIONS, IS "ELIGIBLE" FOR TITLE I ASSISTANCE.
 THE DECISION ON WHETHER SUCH ASSISTANCE WILL IN FACT BE
 EXTENDED CAN ONLY BE MADE ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS BASED ON
 THE SITUATION IN THE PARTICULAR COUNTRY INVOLVED AND WORLD
 WIDE DEMAND FOR TITLE I COMMODITIES.
- 2. WE HAVE NOT ANTICIPATED SUPPLYING TITLE I ASSISTANCE UNCLASSIFIED

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TO BOLIVIA IN FY 1978 AND IT IS, THERFORE, NOT INCLUDED IN OUR PRELIMINARY ALLOCATIONS. SHOULD THE GOB APPLY, OR THE EMBASSY BELIEVE THAT TITLE I AID IS EXPENDIENT, WE WOULD CERTAINLY GIVE CONSIDERATION TO SUCH A REQUEST.

3. WHAT BOLIVIAN OFFICIALS MAY BE REFERING TO REGARDING CHANGES IN PL 480 IS A PROPOSED REVISION OF SECTION III

WHICH WOULD CHANGE THE 25/75 PERCENT CUT OFF POINT FROM 300 DOLLARS PER CAPITA GNP TO "THE POVERTY CRITERION

ESTABLISHED FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION FINANCING." THIS CRITERION IS NOW 520 DOLLARS PER CAPITA GNP. SINCE BOLIVIA'S PER CAPITA GNP HAS RISEN ABOVE 300 DOLLARS BUT IS BELOW 520 DOLLARS, THIS CHANGE, IF ACCEPTED BY THE CONGRESS WHICH APPEARS TO BE LIKELY, WOULD ALLOW IT TO CONTINUE TO COMPETE FOR TITLE I ASSISTNACE IN THE 75 PERCENT CATEGORY. THIS IS ADVANTAGEOUS BUT DOES NOT, OF COURSE, INSURE THAT TITLE I ASSISTANCE WILL BE EXTENDED ANY MORE THAN BEING IN THE 25 PERCENT CATEGORY PRECLUDES ASSISTANCE.

4. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING EMBASSY'S INFORMAL EVALUATION OF COMMODITIES AND QUANTITIES WHICH GOB MIGHT BE CONSIDERING. THIS IS NOT TO SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT MATTER BE DISCUSSED WITH GOB OFFICIALS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, PL 480 TITLE 1

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 09-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE160005
Document Source: Concept Co

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: STJOHNSON/SOT

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770245-0334 Format: TEL

From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770774/aaaacmdj.tel

Line Count: 80 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation Codes. Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 5140f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ORIGIN EB

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 LA PAZ 5196

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 06-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier: Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1911588 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: BOLIVIA\'S ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE TITLE I PL 480 AID

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, BL To: LA PAZ

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5140f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009